Export potential of Jute packaging materials

1473. SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) tha percentage of jute packaging material being used in the fartilizer industry;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating the replacement of High Density Poly Ethylens (HDPE) bags by jute packaging materials in other industries as well so that import of polymers may be reduced;

(c) if so, whether Government have made any study of the export potential of jute packaging materials; and

(d) whether the Government propose to extend the scope of and strengthen the Jute Packaging Materials Act, 1987 so as to promote manufacture of jute packaging for domestic use and export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The entire production of urea is required to be compulsorily packed in jute material under the Order issued under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in packing Commodities) Act, 1987. Tha other varieties of fertilisers be free to be packed in any material.

(b) to (d). Order reserving the packaging of specified commodities the foodgrains, sugar, urea and cement in jute material are reviewed from time to time keeping in view the existing level availability and consumption of jute and the protection of the interest of persons engaged in the jute industry and in the production of raw jute. It is not proposed at present to reserve the packaging of other sectors in jute material. However other industries are free to use jute packaging material without any compulsion. Government are of the view that the interests of the jute packaging sector and the synthetic plastic units should be harmonised and both of the should coexist by having a legitimate share of the packaging of various sectors of them should coexist by having a legitimate share of the packaging of various sectors of the economy. Jute is already being exported as a packaging material and there is a potential for increase of such exports.

Overdrafts by States and Union Territories

1474. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the overdraft by various States and Union Territories on the Reserve Bank of India as on April 1,1990 and April 1,1991;

(b) whether the Reserve Bank of India has set any limit on the overdrafts;

(c) if so, the limits prescribed; and

(d) the rate of interest charged by the Reserve Bank of India on overdrafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) A statement showing the opening adjusted overdrafts of States in their accounts with the Reserve Bank of India as on 1.4.1990 and 1.4.1991 is enclosed. Union Territories do not Bank with the Reserva Bank of India.

(b) and (c). There is no limit on the amount of overdraft to be drawn by the States in their accounts with the Reserve Bank of India. However, Overdraft Regulation Scheme prescribes a limit of seven consecutive working days of the overdraft beyond which day the payments on their accounts are liable to be suspended.

(d) The rate of interest charged by the Reserve Bank of India on overdrafts is as under: